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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/540,380

06/23/2005

Isador H Lieberman

CCF-6389PCT2/US

2534

26294

7590

07/10/2008

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL & TUMMINO L.L.P.
1300 EAST NINTH STREET, SUITE 1700
CLEVEVLAND, OH 44114

EXAMINER

WOODALL, NICHOLAS W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3733

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/10/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/540,380	Applicant(s) LIEBERMAN, ISADOR H	
	Examiner Nicholas Woodall	Art Unit 3733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,8-11 and 18-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18 and 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,8-11 and 20-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment received on 04/01/2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

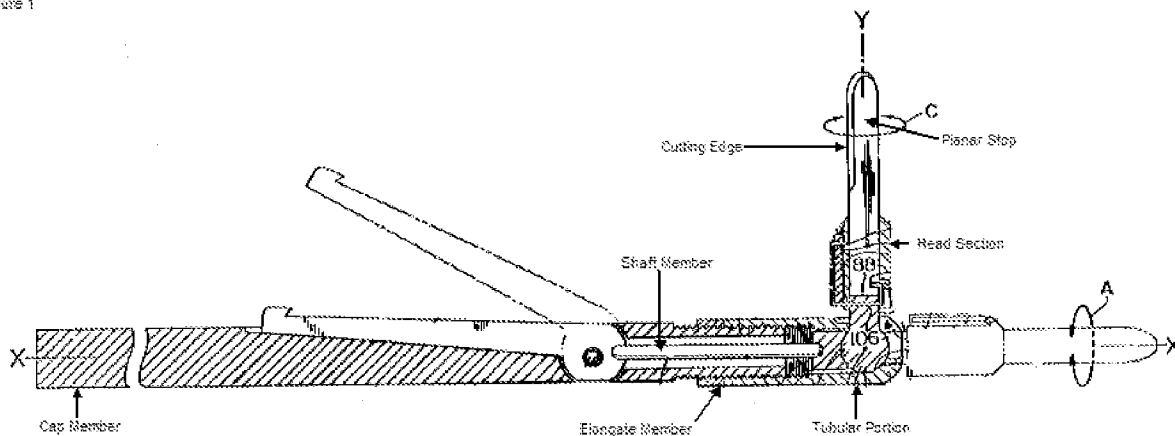
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dee (U.S. Patent 4,788,976) in view of Minor (U.S. Patent 6,309,403).

Regarding claims 1, 8, and 22, Dee discloses a device comprising an elongate member (see Figure 1 below). The elongate member includes a tubular portion extending between a proximal end portion and a distal end portion. The distal end portion includes a head section capable of being articulated between a plurality of predetermined angular positions about a pivot axis extending transverse to the central axis of the elongate member, wherein the head section includes at least one planar stop surface that limits axial movement of the cutting blade and a cutting edge projecting from and being integrally formed with the at least one planar stop surface. The examiner believes that the planar stop is capable of at least partially limiting axial movement of the cutting edge into the element being cut along any axis transverse to the planar stop. The limitations do not limit the location or angle of the axis the cutting edge is moving along or about. Therefore, the examiner believes the Dee reference still reads upon the

invention as claimed. Regarding claims 2 and 9, Dee discloses a device further comprising a shaft member connected to the head section and extending coaxially within the tubular portion, wherein the shaft member and the head section are capable of moving longitudinally relative to the tubular portion. Regarding claims 3 and 10, Dee discloses a device wherein the shaft member includes a terminal end portion that projects beyond the proximal end of the elongate member. Dee fails to disclose the device further comprising a mechanism capable of pivoting the head section relative to the tubular portion. Minor teaches a device further comprising a mechanism for pivoting the head section of the device relative to a tubular section of the device in order to properly position the device during a minimally invasive surgical procedure. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to manufacture the device of Dee further comprising a mechanism capable of pivoting the head section relative to the tubular portion in view of Minor in order to properly position the device during a minimally invasive surgical procedure.

Figure 1



4. Claims 20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dee (U.S. Patent 4,788,976) in view of Minor (U.S. Patent 6,309,403) further in view of Spirer (U.S. Patent 5,871,204).

Regarding claims 20 and 23, the combination of Dee and Minor disclose a device wherein head section further includes a ratchet wheel having a first set of ratchet teeth and the distal end of the shaft member includes a second set of ratchet teeth complementary to the first set of ratchet teeth in order to lock the angular position of the head section of the device (Dee column 5 lines 1-19). Spirer teaches a device comprising a tubular portion and a head section wherein the head section includes a ratchet wheel having a first set of ratchet teeth and the distal end of the tubular portion having a complementary second set of ratchet teeth in order to lock the angular position of the head section of the device. Because both the combination of Dee and Minor and Spirer teach a head section comprising a ratchet wheel having a first set of ratchet teeth

and a second member having a complimentary second set of ratchet teeth, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute one for the other in order to achieve the predictable result of locking the angular position of the head section of the device.

5. Claims 21, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dee (U.S. Patent 4,788,976) in view of Minor (U.S. Patent 6,309,403) further in view of Spirer (U.S. Patent 5,871,204) further in view of Hammerslag (U.S. Patent 5,372,587).

Regarding claim 25, the combination of Dee, Minor, and Spirer disclose a device comprising a shaft member connected to the head section and extending coaxially within the tubular portion, wherein the shaft member and the head section are capable of moving axially relative to the tubular portion to permit engagement and disengagement of the first and second sets of ratchet teeth. Regarding claims 21 and 24, the combination of Dee, Minor, and Spirer discloses a device comprising a mechanism for pivoting the head section relative to the tubular portion as discussed above. The mechanism comprising two wires operatively coupled to a ratchet wheel at the first end and extending through a tubular member and being attached to an actuator at the second end (Minor column 3 lines 14-25). The combination of Dee, Minor, and Spirer fail to disclose a mechanism for pivoting the head section relative to the tubular portion comprising one wire operatively coupled to a pivoting member, i.e. a ratchet wheel, wherein the first and second ends of the wire extending into the tubular portion and are attached to first and second levers disposed in the distal end portion of the

elongate member. Hammerslag teaches a device comprising a mechanism for pivoting the head section of a device relative to a tubular portion of the device comprising a single wire operatively coupled to a pivoting member (175), wherein the first and second ends (170) extend into the tubular portion and are attached to first and second switches, i.e. levers, disposed in the proximal end portion of the elongate member (Hammerslag column 9 lines 39-54). The switches are capable of being manually engaged and moved axially relative to each other to cause rotation of the head section about the pivot axis. Because both the combination of Dee, Minor, and Spirer and Hammerslag teach devices comprising a mechanism for pivoting the head section of a device relative to a tubular portion, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute one for the other in order to achieve the predictable result of pivoting the head section relative to a tubular portion of the device.

6. Claims 4, 11, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dee (U.S. Patent 4,788,976) in view of Minor (U.S. Patent 6,309,403) further in view of Spirer (U.S. Patent 5,871,204) further in view of Hammerslag (U.S. Patent 5,372,587) further in view of Heckeke (U.S. Patent 6,830,574).

Regarding claims 4, 11, 26-28, the combination of Dee, Minor, Spirer, and Hammerslag disclose a device further comprising a cap member. The combination of Dee, Minor, Spirer, and Hammerslag disclose a device comprising a locking mechanism for locking the angular position of the head section relative to the tubular portion including a lever and the shaft member, wherein the lever and the shaft member releasably lock the angular position of the head section relative to the tubular portion.

The combination of Dee, Minor, Spirer, and Hammerslag fail to disclose a locking mechanism wherein the shaft member is removably attachable to the cap member, wherein the shaft member and the cap member releasably lock the angular position of the head section relative to the tubular portion and the shaft member including a threaded end portion projecting beyond the proximal end portion of the elongate member. Heckeale teaches a device comprising a locking mechanism for locking the angular position of a head portion relative to a tubular portion, wherein the locking mechanism includes a shaft member removably attached to a cap member, wherein the shaft member and the cap member releasably lock the angular position of the head section relative to the tubular portion of the device. Kuslich teaches a device comprising a shaft member and a cap member, wherein the shaft member includes a threaded portion extending beyond the proximal end portion of an elongate member in order to couple the shaft member to the end cap. Because both the combination of Dee, Minor, Spirer, and Hammerslag and Heckeale teach device comprising locking mechanisms, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute one for the other in order to achieve the predictable results of locking the angular position of the head section relative to the tubular portion of the device and it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to manufacture the combination of Dee, Minor, Spirer, and Hammerslag wherein the shaft member further includes a threaded portion projecting beyond the proximal end portion of the elongate member in view of Kuslich in order to couple the shaft member to the end cap.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 18 and 19 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 04/01/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant's argument that the lateral surface, i.e. the planar stop, can not in anyway limit axial movement of the cutting edge is not persuasive. The examiner believes that even a planar lateral surface of the blade is capable of stopping axial movement of the cutting edge, for example if the blade where moving toward a second surface along an axis perpendicular to the lateral surface, the surface would limit the axial movement of the cutting edge once the lateral surface contacted the second surface. There are no limitations in claim regarding the direction of movement the planar stop is limiting or of the location or angle of the axis the cutting edge is moving along or about. Therefore, the examiner believes that the Dee reference still reads upon the invention as claimed. The examiner has presented new grounds of rejection as necessitated by the amendment making this office action **FINAL**.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Woodall whose telephone number is (571)272-5204. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00 to 5:30 EST..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Nicholas Woodall/
Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731